

# Ogiek language

**Ogiek** (also known as *Okiek* or *Akiek*; pronounced [ogiɛk]) is a Southern Nilotic language cluster of the Kalenjin family spoken or once spoken by the Ogiek peoples, scattered groups of hunter-gatherers in Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania. Most if not all Ogiek speakers have assimilated to cultures of surrounding peoples: the Akiek in northern Tanzania now speak Maasai and the Akiek of Kinare, Kenya now speak Gikuyu. *Ndorobo* is a term considered derogatory, occasionally used to refer to various groups of hunter-gatherers in this area, including the Ogiek.

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## Dialects

There are three main Ogiek varieties that have been documented, though there are several dozen named local Ogiek groups:

- Kinare*, spoken around the Kenyan place Kinare on the eastern slope of the Rift Valley. The Kinare dialect is extinct, and Rottland (1982:24-25) reports that he found a few old men from Kinare in 1976, married with Kikuyu women and integrated in the Kikuyu culture, whose parents had lived in the forests around Kinare as honey-gathering Ogiek. They called themselves /akié:k pa kínáre/, i.e. *Ogiek of Kinare*.

Ogiek	
Native to	Kenya, Tanzania
Region	<i>Kinare</i> : Kinare, Kenya, on the eastern slope of the Rift Valley. <div><i>Sogoo</i>: Kenya, southern Mau forest between the Amala and Ewas Ng'iro rivers.</div> <div><i>Akiek</i>: Tanzania, southern part of Arusha Region.</div>
Ethnicity	Okiek
Native speakers	79,000 in Kenya (2009 census) <sup>[1]</sup> <div>A few older speakers in Tanzania</div>
Language family	<div>Nilo-Saharan?</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eastern Sudanic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nilotic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Southern Nilotic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kalenjin languages<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Okiek–Mosirot<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Ogiek</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Dialects	Kinare (extinct) <div>Sogoo (endangered)</div> <div>Akiek (endangered)</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	oki
Glottolog	okie1247 (http://glottolog.o

- *Sogoo* (or *Sokóò*), spoken in the southern Mau Forest between the Amala and Ewas Ng'iro rivers (Heine 1973). The actual status of the Sogoo dialect is unclear. Bernd Heine included some Sogoo vocabulary in his 'Vokabulare ostafrikanischer Restsprachen' (1973). Franz Rottland, following Heine's directions, came across a Sogoo settlement of ten round huts in 1977, and reported that he was told that there were several other Sogoo settlements in the immediate surroundings (Rottland 1982:25). The Sogoo speakers had contact with the Kipsikii, another Kalenjin people, and were able to point out lexical differences between their own language and Kipsigis. Ten years later, Gabriele Sommer (1992:389) classified the Sogoo dialect as being threatened by extinction. The Sogoo variety was recorded in an area where Kipchorng'wonek Okiek reside (Sogoo is the name of a settlement/center there). Extensive texts from naturally occurring conversation recorded in both Kipchorng'wonek communities and Kaplelach Okiek communities are available in the publications of Dr. Corinne A. Kratz.
- *Akiek* (or *Akie*), spoken in Tanzania in the southern part of Arusha region. Akiek is spoken by various little groups in the steppes south of Arusha, which is the territory of the Maasai. Akiek is probably dying out because many of its speakers have shifted to, or are shifting to, Maasai language. Maguire (1948:10) already reported a high level of bilinguality in Maasai, and remarked that "[t]he language of the *Mósiro* [an Akiek clan name] is dying, as any language except Masai tends to do in the Masai country." In the 1980s, however, Corinne Kratz and James Woodburn visited Akie groups in Tanzania during survey research and found that they were fully bilingual in Akie and Maasai.

	rg/resource/lan guoid/id/okie12 47) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Linguasphere</b>	04-CAA-e

## See also

- Ogiek
- Akiek (disambiguation)

## References

1. Ogiek (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/oki/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
  2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Okiek-Akie" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/okie1247>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
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## External links

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- [1] (<http://www.ogiek.org>) The Ogiek People
  - Sketch of Okiek (<https://web.archive.org/web/20050318234858/http://www.anthropology.emory.edu/Linganth/okiek.html>) by Corinne A. Kratz.
  - A preliminary documentation of the Okiek Language of Kenya (<https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MPI1032020>) deposited by Jane Akinyi Ngala Oduor
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